

# Minutes

## State Medevac Committee

October 12, 2006

Called to order at 10:04

Adjourned at 13:18

Location: The Place at Innsbrook

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems/Trauma/Medevac.asp](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems/Trauma/Medevac.asp)

Meeting called by:  
Randy Abernathy

Chair: Randy Abernathy

OEMS Staff: [Paul Sharpe](#), Gary Brown, Christy Saldana.

Attendees: Allen C. Wolfe Jr., Bob Knox, Bret Henyon, Candi Van Vleet, Christopher Cannon, Chris Perkins, Chris Puckett, Darryl Lazar, David Trueman, Don Childs, Gregory Jones, Harinder Dhinsa, Jay Cullen, Jeff Hamilton, John Bianco, John Ratliff, Joseph Lo Preto, Lisa Clapp, Melanie Morris, Michael Ortega, Nick Saunders, Paul Davenport, Robin Davis, Susan Smith, and Terry Austin.

### Agenda Topics

#### Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

#### Approval of Minutes

Minutes were distributed electronically, but were not the official minutes due to an electronic problem. Time was given for the committee to review. Motion to approve by Jeff Hamilton and seconded by Paul Davenport. Unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

#### Chair Report

The Chair does not have an official report. Clarification on his memo of last week -- there was not any negative intention behind the memo. The memo was intended to encourage others to participate in the Best Practices process. Randy thanked those who have been working hard on the development of best practices.

#### OEMS Report

Paul Sharpe (OEMS) – Tim Perkins has joined the Office of EMS from New York State. Tim will be functioning as OEMS', EMS planner. Tim's position is responsible for the OEMS Strategic/Operational Plan and the Regional EMS Councils. Frank Cheatham has also joined the Office as the HMERT Coordinator.

A new [Medevac web page](#) has been added to the OEMS web site. This page contains current information, national position papers, links to national and local Medevac organizations, pictures, etc. Please provide input to OEMS with any ideas you have for the new web page!

A copy of the Air Medical Task Force (AMTF) draft report is attached to your agenda. The AMTF is comprised of representatives from the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP), and the Association of Air Medical Services; OEMS participated on the task force. The AMTF is requesting feedback on the draft. Please send any concerns to OEMS to pass on to the task force.

Recently, OEMS received an update from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) about the Draft Medevac Regulations. They informed OEMS they were still closely reviewing areas that may cross into Federal law. Once the updates are received, they will be posted on the Medevac website.

#### Best Practices Committee

Robin Davis reported on the Best Practices Committees activities.

Robin has been advocating for the Best Practices (BP) Committee to receive an educational opportunity on developing BP's. The committee continues to research information. The BPC has had meetings, communicated electronically and are considering teleconferencing to make access to this committee easier.

Question about clarification of the best practices committee? Robin explained that the group is not a regulatory committee, but instead a voluntary group that wants to “set the bar” higher for practices in the Medevac field. The BPC comes together as a group with the same goals in mind. Ideas are welcomed at any time. More involvement will hopefully cause less confusion later. Paul Davenport shared that assumptions have been made which have been cleared up.

Robin – the BPC had a “field trip” to Maryland’s Syscom which “opened their eyes”. Prior to the visit Maryland State Police (MSP) were provided with some basic questions from the BCP which were read to the committee. Robin shared many items from this trip with us. Maggie McCauley was not able to attend today’s meeting, but her comments were read into the minutes. The Chair, OEMS, and Greg Jones shared comments about the experience as well.

Allen Wolfe from MedStar, which operates in the Maryland System, shared his experience as a Non-MSP participant in that system. It would be a good system for Virginia if the playing field were even [among public and private providers].

Bob Knox wants to see data to prove centralized dispatch would really work. Paul Davenport commented also. How much will a centralized dispatch benefit VA? OEMS clarified that it is not necessarily advocating for centralized dispatch, but instead it is advocating for enabling legislation that will allow some type of coordinated response. An example given was the method of routing calls used by the Virginia Poison Control Network (VPCN). Gallery discussion was held.

Discussion was held about EMS data collection. OEMS has not been given the go ahead from the Commissioners Office to post an RFP for a new PPCR system. A request was made on August 17, 2005 to be allowed to post an RFP for a replacement program for PPCR. OEMS, in August 2005, had completed, through the committee process, the development of an RFP with the specific items needed for a new state of the art EMS Registry. In addition to understanding what type of system we would like, funding is also available.

After several request for a response from VDH Exec. Management, OEMS has been promised an answer by October 19, 2006. An update will be provided on their response as needed.

Questions about how the PPCR data is collected and what it is used for were added. OEMS gave a mini session on this. OEMS will review compliance and quality of Medevac agencies PPCR data submissions and once these items are as they should be, the OEMS statistician will be tasked with developing reports on response times, severity scoring, and other demographics.

OEMS now possesses GIS software that could be incorporated to look at response areas, “over flight” and other geographical studies.

Robin Davis stated that we are collecting data through many activities such as our trip to Baltimore. Greg Jones also cautioned the Committee that data alone, should not guide the development of our system.

#### **Discussion on Medevac Authority Bill**

[A copy of §32.1-111.3 of the *Code of Virginia* (COV) related to the Statewide Emergency Medical Care System with the proposed Medevac Authority Amendment included was provided electronically prior to the meeting and in hard copy form during the meeting.]

At the July 13, 2006 meeting a copy of the proposed Medevac Authority Bill (Authority Bill) from the 2001 and 2003 Legislative Sessions was distributed and OEMS’ intent to revise this bill and present it in the upcoming General Assembly (GA) was announced.

The revised Authority Bill was reviewed before the committee highlighting the language that would establish the bill, the intent of OEMS is to fulfill its *Code* requirement to establish and coordinate a Medevac system. Highlighted items included: organized access to service, adopted a statewide plan, ensure flights are coordinated, establishing a single access to Medevac service, identifying the agency (ies) responsible to respond in jurisdictions, appropriate use, and standardized education.

The impetus behind OEMS moving forward was explained, as well as, the process of being reviewed by the OAG and entering into legislation. The Chair later explained that the committee’s thoughts on the topic were wanted and that they would be shared with the patron who would sponsor this bill, pro or con.

Questions from the committee:

Within the definitions section; why is an authority beneficial vs. another body? OEMS explained that this point was closely scrutinized and it is OEMS’ position that establishing an “authority” gives this body adequate ability to promulgate proposed initiatives. Additionally, having a body appointed by the EMS

Advisory Board (Board), with a representative of the Board on that body, will keep Medevac aligned similar to where it is now and have the body that promulgates its regulations knowledgeable about air medical service (AMS).

Mr. Brown offered that legislators or the Board of Health (BOH) may step in to be the authority if we do not have this bill passed.

A couple of members from the committee questioned the Authority Board composition. OEMS explained that great thought went into this composition. The thought process was that currently the Medevac Committee comprises only of providers of AMS, and of this composition it is tied between part 91 and part 135 operators, which results in or potentially could result in a deadlock on issues. The Authority composition attempts to break that tie, by having “users” of the service also involved. Including users’ in the committee’s composition has been a topic at several recent past meetings.

OEMS acknowledged that any body that is formed has to be done responsibly so that it is representative of providers and users of the system and not comprised of members not possessing knowledge on the subject. Members expressed a concern with giving their approval during the meeting. The Chair proposed that one representative from each agency (identified by a contact list passed around) will review the document and provide feedback by COB, October 27, 2006.

Feedback should be limited to major concerns related to the drafts intent. OEMS will compile the feedback received and distribute them by Monday, October 30, 2006. After this opportunity Friday, November 3, 2006.

### Agency Updates

**Carilion Lifeguard** – the rooftop helipad at CRMH has been revamped and will be open by end of the year. A Member of the group acknowledged that Paul Davenport of CPTS was honored as the Air Medical Program Director of the year.

**Pegasus** – Pegasus is now using full night vision goggles. “Once you have used NVG you will not want to fly at night without them.” Bob Knox announced he is resigning his position as program manager. He will continue to represent Pegasus until his replacement is announced. [possibly around the beginning of next year]

**PHI Air Medical Virginia** – PHI’s bases are all now available 24 hours per day. There was little effect from the recent work action.

**VSP Med Flight III** – recently hosted an open house that was well attended celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Don thanked all for their support.

**Nightingale** - no report.

**Air Medical Transport Specialists** – have been busy, especially seeing an increase in international flights. May be upgrading to an aircraft capable of longer international flights.

**VSP Med Flight I** - no report.

**MedStar** – a fifth EC has been received to bring the MedStar back up to par and replace crashed aircraft. The personnel involved in the crash will be returning soon with the exception of the pilot who was close to retirement and has chosen to retire. MedStar has opened a new communication center and moved to Bowie Md.

**Fairfax Police** – FPD has one aircraft in PA and it will come back soon, after it is refurbished, one of the rotors on their second aircraft was discovered to have a crack. Replacement parts have been obtained and the unit is expected to be tested today. There is a new commander of the unit and he hopes to be here in January

**US Park Service** – the RSI program is now up and running.

**LifeEvac** - LifeEvac is also reaching its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month. Rob Hamilton has been promoted to the VP level, but is remaining local. VCU is constructing a new building (Critical Care Tower) and the crane currently in place for that project is not major concern, however, later this month the crane height will increase and be more of a concern landing on the roof top helipad. Information on the crane will be distributed.

**Duke Life Flight** – Duke is undergoing construction around their ED, a roof top helipad is expected to be open in November 07.

### New Business

Joseph Lo Preto from Fairfax County Communications – The Regional APCO conference next Oct. is in Baltimore, [APCO.org](http://APCO.org) is their website. Mr. Lo Preto offered to present Virginia Medevac Communications

issues at the APCO conference. The Committee agreed to support Mr. Lo Preto with providing this presentation.

Committee discussion on email distribution lists – With all voting organizations present, it was agreed upon to limit working drafts to being sent to one point of contact (POC) for each agency. This POC will disseminate the info within their organization as needed. OEMS will assist in the process as allowed.

#### Old Business

Randy – would like to incorporate a system of passing on information and request the committees input. It was agreed, informally, that Email may be the best method, and it would come from OEMS.

#### Scheduled Meetings

##### **2007 Meeting Schedule:**

January 25, 2007

April 26, 2007

July 26, 2007

October 25, 2007.

Location TBA